MARVEL
#3
DONNY CATES
NICK SPENCER
SZYMON KUDRANSKI
DAN BROWN
Doctor Strange
DAMNATION
ROD REIS

SORCERER SUPREME WITH SOMETHING TO PROVE.

RULER OF A REALM OF HELL; COLLECTOR OF SOULS, CORRUPTOR OF GOOD.

A POWERFUL MYSTIC AND STEPHEN'S LONGTIME FRIEND AND ASSISTANT, WONG RECENTLY LEFT HIS POST OVER AN ETHICAL DISAGREEMENT.

A VERY GOOD BOY, BATS DIED WHILE PROTECTING STEPHEN STRANGE, SO LOKI RESURRECTED HIM AS A GHOST.

A.K.A. ERIC BROOKS. PARTIALLY INFECTED WITH VAMPIRISM AT BIRTH WHEN HIS MOTHER WAS BITTEN, BLADE HUNTS CREATURES OF THE NIGHT.

DAUGHTER OF A ONCE-IMMORTAL, NOW-DEAD MONSTER HUNTER, ELSA INHERITED HER FATHER'S JOURNALS, BLOODGEM POWERS AND VOCATION.

MEPHISTO HAS LAS VEGAS, THE AVENGERS, AND NOW DOCTOR STRANGE UNDER HIS CONTROL. IT'S UP TO WONG AND HIS MIDNIGHT SONS TO SAVE THEM, AND SAVE US ALL.

A.K.A. DANNY RAND. ORPHANED MILLIONAIRE DANNY WAS RAISED IN THE IMMORTAL CITY K'UN-LUN, AND WON THE MYSTICAL POWER OF THE IRON FIST.

A.K.A. MARC SPECTOR/ JAKE LOCKLEY/STEVEN GRANT/MR. KNIGHT, EX-MERCENARY DISCIPLE OF THE EGYPTIAN MOON GOD KHONSHU.

A.K.A. JERICHO DRUMM. FORMER PSYCHOLOGIST AND MASTER OF VOODOO MAGIC, JERICHO RECENTLY FOUGHT EVIL AS PART OF THE AVENGERS UNITY SQUAD.

FORMERLY THEODORE SALLIS. VICTIM OF AN ACCIDENT MIXING SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM AND SWAMP MAGIC, GUARDIAN OF THE NEXUS OF ALL REALITIES, WHOEVER KNOWS FEAR BURNS AT HIS TOUCH.

A.K.A. JOHNNY BLAZE. FORMER STUNT RIDER JOINED TO A SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE.

A.K.A. BEN REILLY. RESURRECTED SPIDER-POWERED PETER PARKER CLONE, BEN'S BEEN THROUGH ENOUGH TO DRIVE ANYONE MAD, BUT HE'S TRYING TO BE GOOD.

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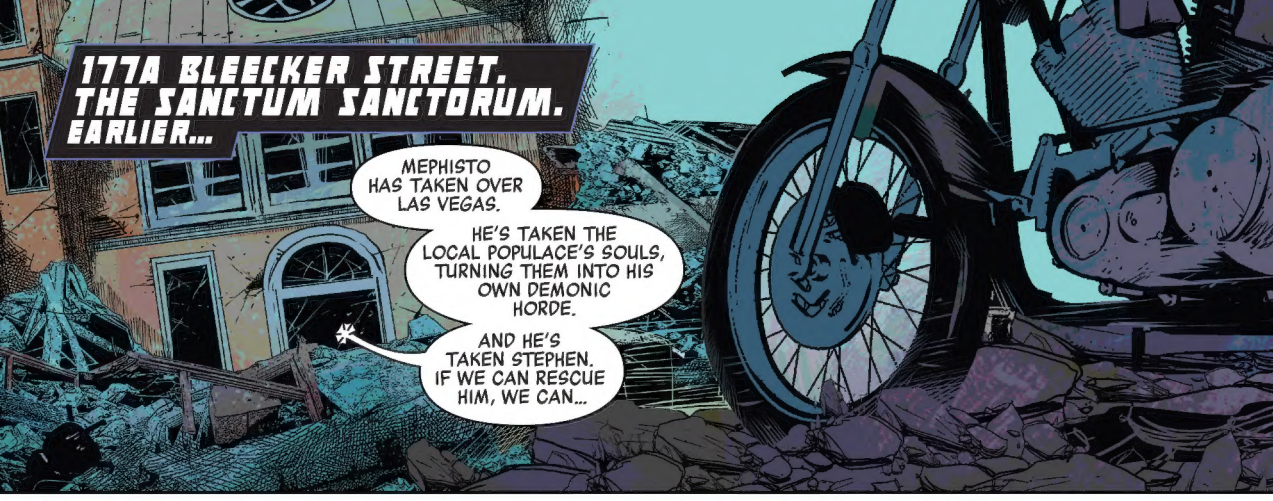

177A BLEECKER STREET. THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM. EARLIER...
MEPHISTO HAS TAKEN OVER LAS VEGAS.
HE'S TAKEN THE LOCAL POPULACE'S SOULS, TURNING THEM INTO HIS OWN DEMONIC HORDE.
AND HE'S TAKEN STEPHEN. IF WE CAN RESCUE HIM, WE CAN...

NO. NO, NOT "IF." YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG IF YOU ARE TO LEAD THEM...
CONFIDENT. LIKE...LIKE STEPHEN WOULD BE.
NOT "IF."

"WHEN."
WHEN WE RESCUE STEPHEN, THEN WE SEND THE DEVIL TO--

KNOCK KNOCK
YES, ONE MOMENT!

ONE LAST TIME.
YOU CAN DO THIS ONE LAST TIME.

HEY, WONG.
MONSTER SQUAD IS UPSTAIRS WAITING ON YOU. YOU ALL RIGHT?
YES, OF COURSE.

JOHNNY, I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR AGREEING TO BE HERE WITH US.
HAVE YOU HAD A MOMENT TO REVIEW THE FOLDER DETAILING YOUR PART IN ALL OF--
YEAH. I'M GOOD WITH IT. WE DON'T NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT.

JOHNNY...I AM BY NO MEANS A GENERAL, AND THERE IS NO CALL HERE FOR BLINDLY FOLLOWING ORDERS...
WHAT I AM ASKING YOU TO DO...IT'S AN ENORMOUS RISK. IF YOU HAVE ANY RESERVAT--
I SAID I'M GOOD.

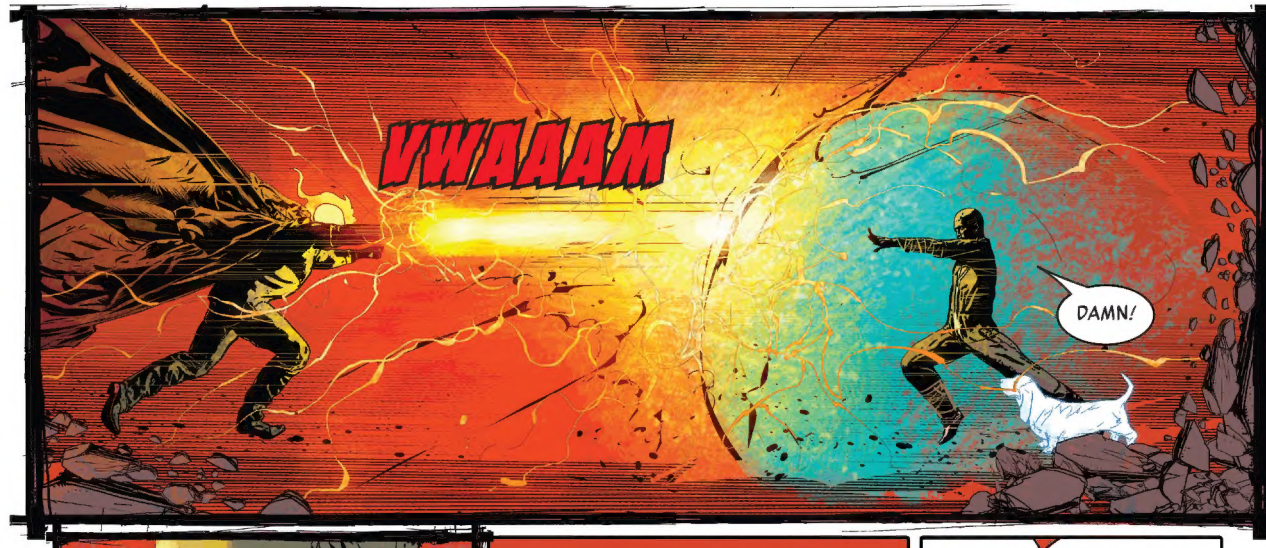
THIS KINDA THING...I AIN'T NEW TO IT, YOU KNOW?
MEPHISTO'S INFLUENCE, HIS POWER...IT'S SPREADING.
I CAN FEEL IT.
EVERY LITTLE SIN FOLKS COMMIT, HE GETS THEIR SOUL, RIGHT? FROM LYING TO JAYWALKING. NO ONE IS EXEMPT.
THIS THING HITS L.A., THE WHOLE PLANET IS DOOMED.

IF THIS PLAN OF YOURS WILL STOP THAT, I'LL DO WHAT I GOTTA DO.
BUT--
WONG. STOP.

I TRUST YOU.

NOW...
SO, DID YOU GUYS HAVE A PLAN? OR...
NOT A TIME FOR JOKES, DIET SPIDER-MAN...
...WE GOT A MAN DOWN.
HE DEAD? HE LOOKS DEAD.
NO. MAN-THING IS SECRETING A POWERFUL PAIN BLOCKER INTO HIS SYSTEM WHILE I ATTEMPT TO PUT THIS DAMNED FLAME OUT.
BLADE'S VAMPIRE PHYSIOLOGY IS HELPING WITH THE HEALING. BUT THE HAMMER IS BURNING IT AWAY FASTER THAN WE CAN REPAIR.
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
NOT UNLESS YOU HAPPEN TO BE WORTHY, MR. KNIGHT.
HUH. YEAH, I COULD BE.
I'M SORRY?
DON'T BE. LET ME GET A CRACK AT THAT HAMMER, YEAH? LOTS OF FOLKS RUNNING AROUND UP HERE IN MY HEAD THESE DAYS. ONE OF 'EM COULD BE WORTHY...
STOP IT, KNIGHT. BLADE DOESN'T NEED YOU MESSING AROUND...
...HE NEEDS A DOCTOR.

MEANWHILE...
FWOOOSH
AGH!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE DOING THE WHOLE "STEPHEN, I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! FIGHT THIS!" THING?
I WOULD IF THAT WERE TRUE, BATS.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, IF *THAT THING* IS OUR FRIEND...
"...STEPHEN'S SOUL ALREADY BELONGS TO MEPHISTO."


VWAAAM
DAMN!

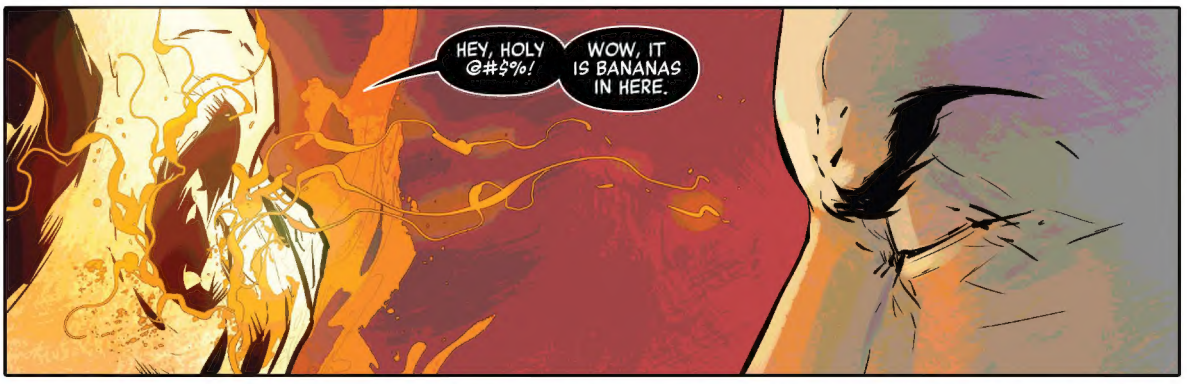
WONG!
BATS!--GAH!--GET THE OTHERS! GET--

LOOK... INTO...MY EYES, OLD FRIEND...
NO! PLEASE...

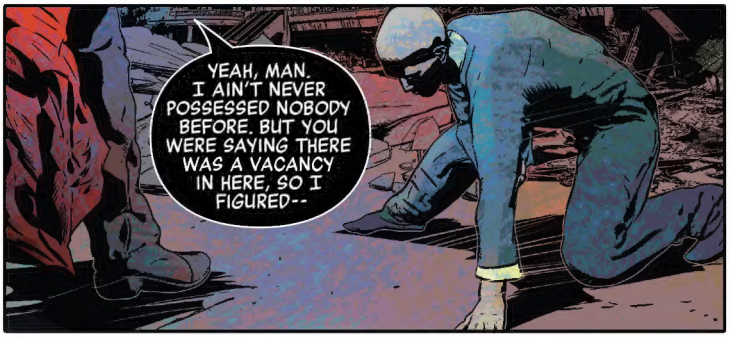
AH, @#$%, STEPHEN, COME ON, MAN...
JUST 'CAUSE YOU AIN'T GOT NO SOUL DON'T MEAN YOU GOTTA BE A...
WAIT...

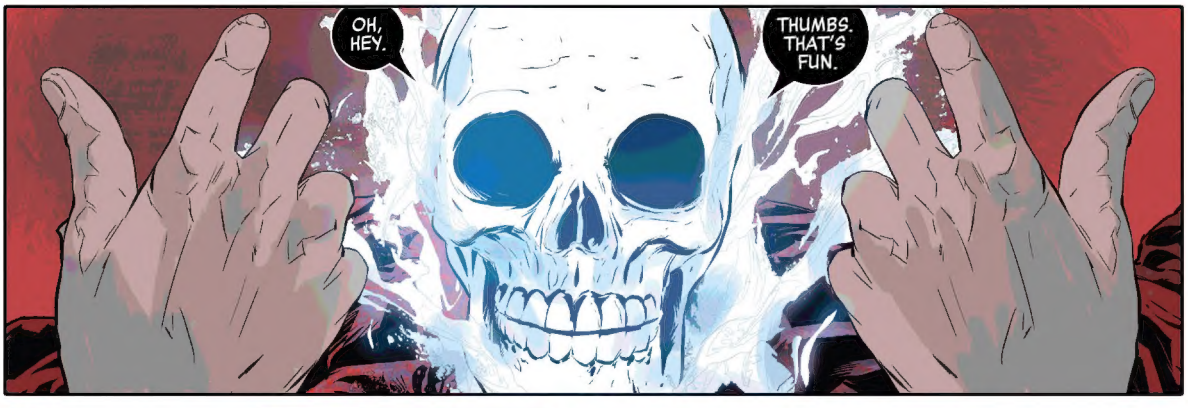
LOOK AT ME!!!

GAZE INTO THE STARE OF THE--


HEY, HOLY @#$%!
WOW, IT IS BANANAS IN HERE.

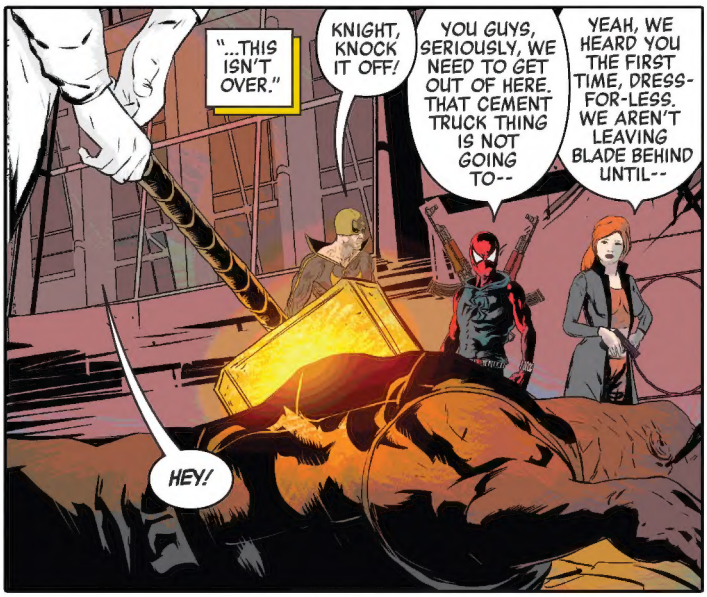
...
BATS?


YEAH, MAN. I AIN'T NEVER POSSESSED NOBODY BEFORE. BUT YOU WERE SAYING THERE WAS A VACANCY IN HERE, SO I FIGURED--


OH, HEY.
THUMBS. THAT'S FUN.

GOOD BOY, BATS!
(THAT SUDDENLY FEELS ODD.)
HOW LONG CAN YOU HOLD HIM LIKE THIS?

I...I DON'T KNOW. IT--IT'S PRETTY BAD IN HERE.
IT HURTS.
JUST KEEP HOLDING HIM FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN...

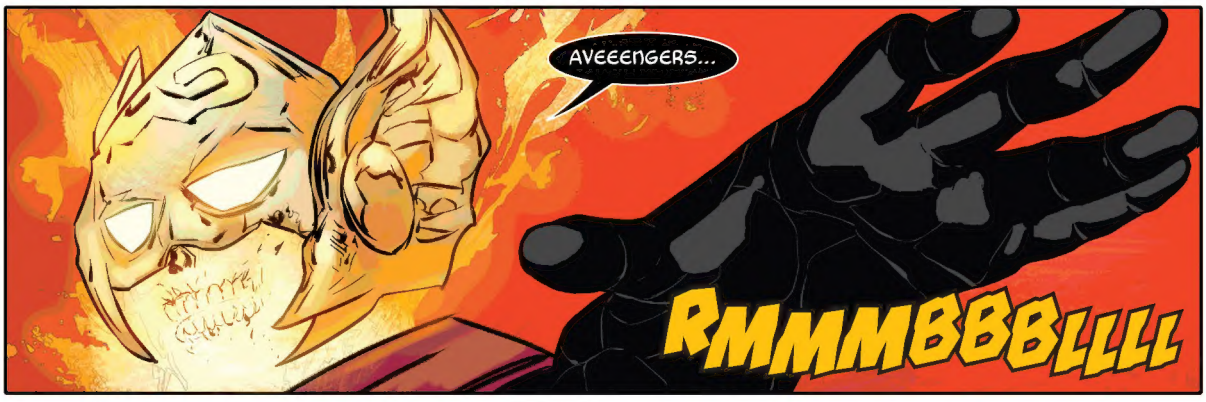

"...THIS ISN'T OVER."
KNIGHT, KNOCK IT OFF!
YOU GUYS, SERIOUSLY, WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. THAT CEMENT TRUCK THING IS NOT GOING TO--
YEAH, WE HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME, DRESS-FOR-LESS. WE AREN'T LEAVING BLADE BEHIND UNTIL--
HEY!

SOMETHING IS HAPPENING! I CAN FEEL IT!
OH, GET OVER IT, NUTJOB. YOU AREN'T DOING ANY...

...THING... DID IT JUST MOVE?!
I TOLD YOU! SEE! I'M NOT CRAZY!

HA! I'M-- I'M NOT CRAZY! I'M WORTHY!

BOOOOM
I'M WORTH-- WHOA!!!


AVEEENGERS...
RMMMBBBLLLL

...ASSSEMMMBLE!
KRAKA-THOOOM

BUT I WAS WORTH--
--LESS. HEY, IS DEMON THOR MAKING IT RAIN BLOOD NOW?
IT APPEARS THAT WAY, YES.
WELL, THAT'S JUST [redacted] GREAT.
HEY...

WHERE'S BLADE?

RMMMMBBBLLL
AHHH!
RAGGGH!!!
CHK

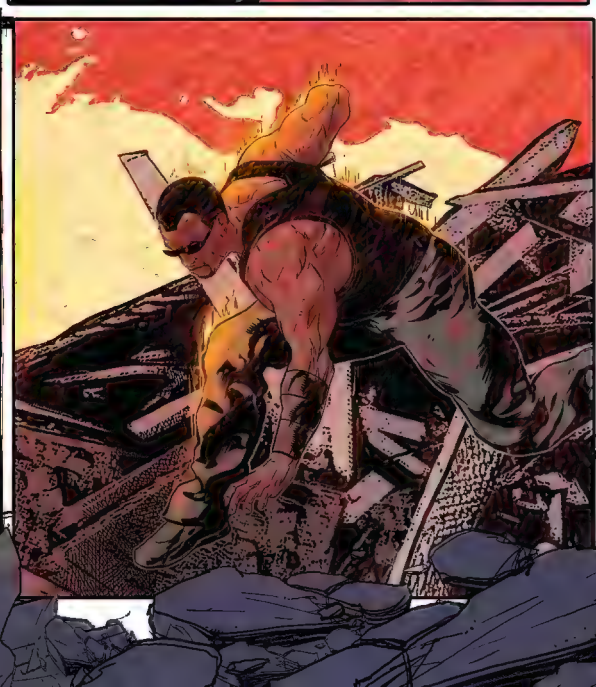
WHAT IS THIS, BLOOD RAIN?

HEH, THANKS FOR THE DRINK, BABY.

GOTTA SPLIT.

BEEP

BOOOM



WELL, [illegible].

I KNOW YOU ARE WOUNDED, BLADE. BUT I'M AFRAID THIS IS FAR FROM OVER...

I'M ASSUMING THAT STEPHEN STRANGE DEMON THING YOU GOT THERE IS ON OUR SIDE?
OKAY, SOUNDS COOL.
FOR THE TIME BEING, YES. STEPHEN'S GHOST DOG, BATS, HAS POSSESSED HIS BODY. HE WILL HOLD IT FOR AS LONG AS--

LET'S FINISH THIS DAMN THING.

AND SO IT BEGINS.

THE WAR OF DAMNATION.

THE FINAL BATTLE FOR THE SOULS OF THIS WORLD.

I THOUGHT I HAD PREPARED FOR THE MOMENT.

I THOUGHT WE MAY HAVE BEEN ENOUGH, OUR LITTLE BAND OF THE DEMONIC AND THE DEAD.

I FEAR I WAS WRONG. I'M AFRAID QUITE A LOT, ACTUALLY...

I AM NOT A LEADER LIKE STEPHEN.

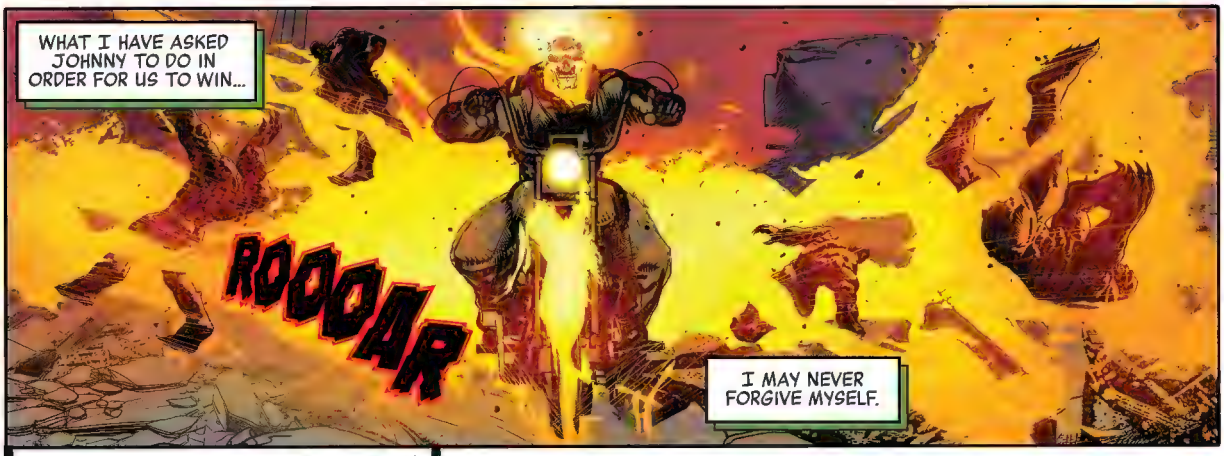
NOT A FIGHTER LIKE THESE MEN AND WOMEN I HAVE LED TO THEIR DOOM.

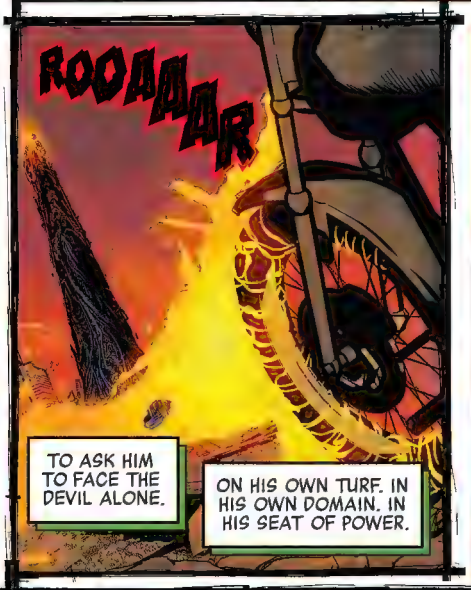
BUT I DO HAVE HOPE.

HOPE. AND ONE VERY PISSED OFF VENGEANCE DEMON...
ROOAARR
JOHNNY, NOW!

GAH!
LOOK! INTO...MY EYES...
BEHOLD...
...YOOOUR PENANCE!

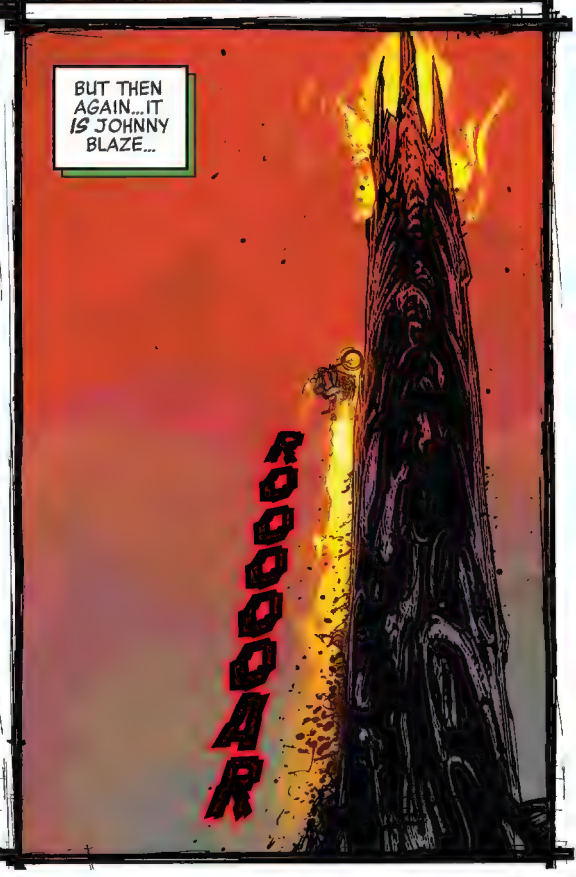
YEAH, THAT AIN'T GONNA WORK ON ME.
I'M NOT REALLY THE PENITENT TYPE.
NICE TRY THOUGH, KITTEN.
KRAK
HEH HEH...
AMATEURS.
OOOOAAAR

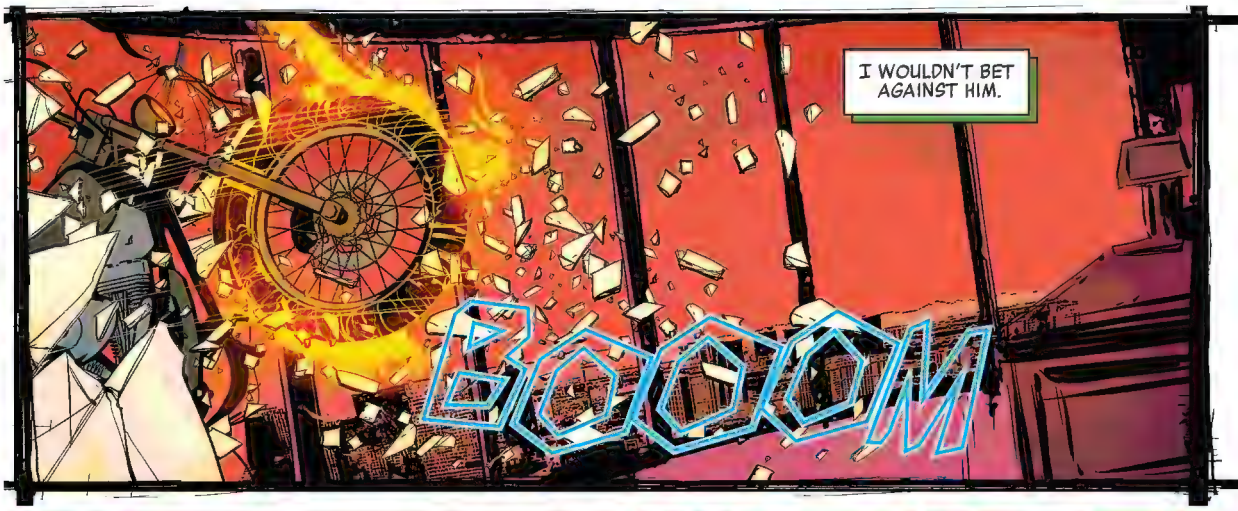

WHAT I HAVE ASKED JOHNNY TO DO IN ORDER FOR US TO WIN...
ROOOAR
I MAY NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF.


ROOOAAAR
TO ASK HIM TO FACE THE DEVIL ALONE.
ON HIS OWN TURF. IN HIS OWN DOMAIN. IN HIS SEAT OF POWER.

IT'S A HELL OF A STUNT.
ROOOAR

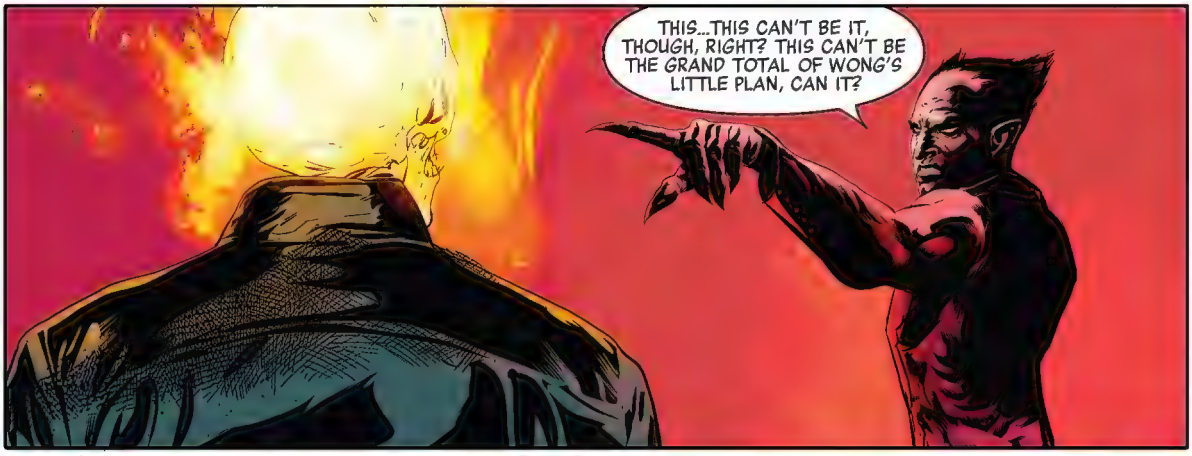
ROOOOAAAR
IT'S MORE THAN THAT, THOUGH. IT'S INSANE.
WHAT I'VE ASKED JOHNNY TO DO IN ORDER FOR US TO DEFEAT THIS EVIL...IT'S... IMPOSSIBLE...


BUT THEN AGAIN...IT IS JOHNNY BLAZE...
ROOOOOOAAR


I WOULDN'T BET AGAINST HIM.
BOOM

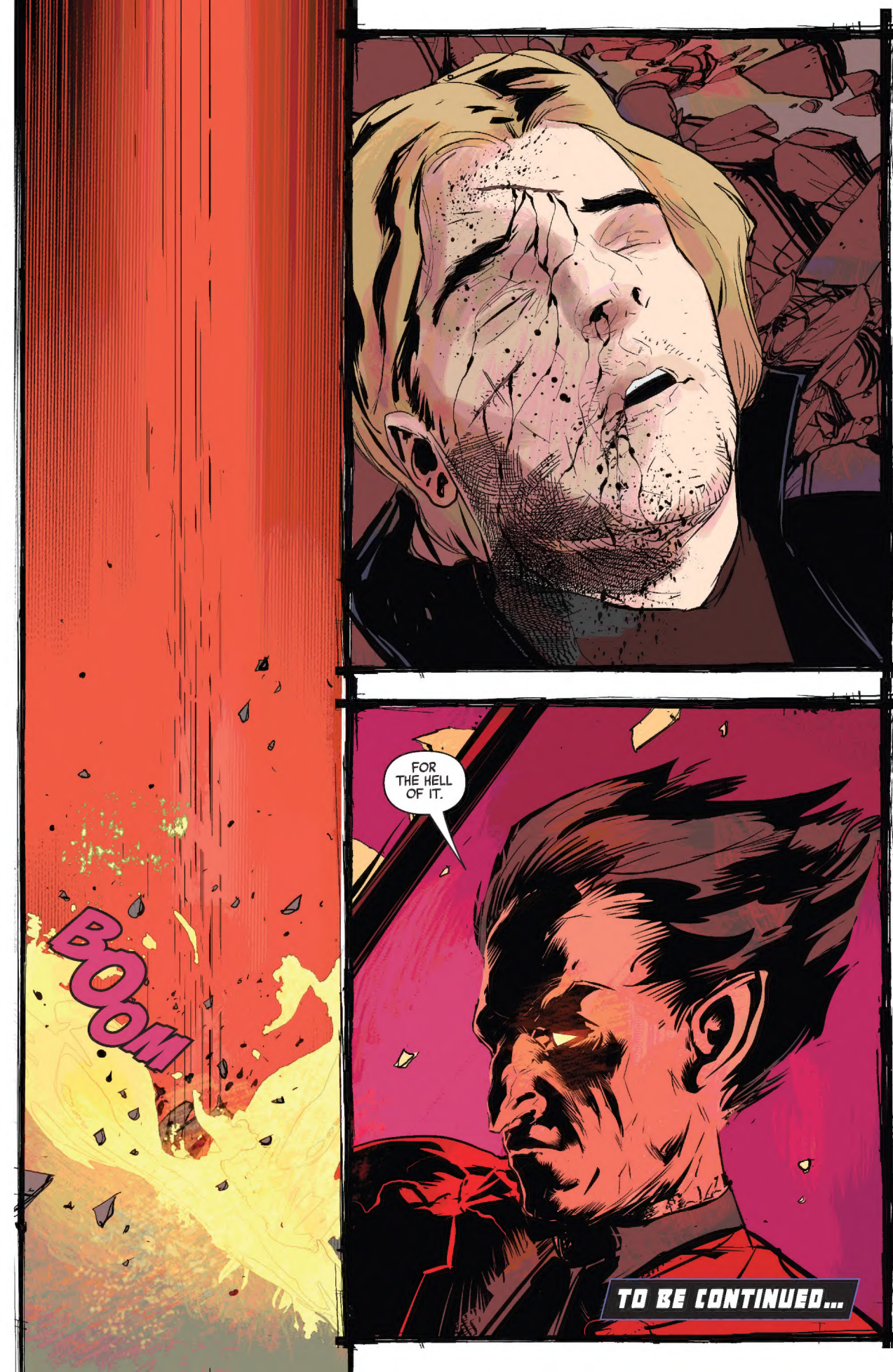
WELL...

THAT WAS A NEAT LITTLE TRICK.
DID YOU HAVE FUN, JOHNNY?


THIS...THIS CAN'T BE IT, THOUGH, RIGHT? THIS CAN'T BE THE GRAND TOTAL OF WONG'S LITTLE PLAN, CAN IT?

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG DAMN TIME COMIN', HUH?
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE END THIS? JUST YOU AND--

OH, PLEASE.
FWOOOSH
WHAT... WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?
I LIFTED YOUR CURSE, JOHNNY.
YOU'RE HUMAN AGAIN. CONGRATULATIONS.
BUT...
WHY?
KRAK


BOOM
FOR THE HELL OF IT.
TO BE CONTINUED...

FOLLOW THE ROAD TO DAMNATION NOW THROUGH APRIL IN THE PAGES OF DOCTOR STRANGE; BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER; IRON FIST; & DAMNATION: JOHNNY BLAZE GHOST RIDER

DOCTOR STRANGE: DAMNATION

IRON FIST 78
ON SALE NOW

DAMNATION: JOHNNY BLAZE GHOST RIDER 1

BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER 16

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